

Courts' Martial of Army Personnel

*137. SHRI L. GANESAN:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of army jawans and officers who were court martialed during the last three years;

(b) what is the number of those who were dismissed from service during the same period;

(c) what is the number, out of them, of those who were connected with disturbances following the Operation Blue Star; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to review each case, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) A total of 5211 officers/JCOs/ORs were court martialled during the calendar years 1982, 1983 and 1984 in which form these figures are maintained. Out of these a total of 3170 were dismissed during the same period.

(c) Nil, since disciplinary action in cases following Operation Blue Star began in 1985, and are still continuing.

(d) Provision already exists for review of such cases under the Army Act and Army Instructions issued thereunder.

Uneven Progress in Rural Electrification Programme in States

*138. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while the States of Punjab, Haryana, Kerala and Tamil Nadu have achieved almost 100 per cent of rural electrification, the States of Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have failed to electrify 50 per cent of their villages;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this uneven progress; and

(c) what steps the Central Government have taken to remove the constraints, if

any, and to effectively coordinate the activities of various agencies involved in the rural electrification programme for a balanced progress and to achieve the goal within a time-bound programme?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARA-

NAND): (a) While Punjab, Haryana, Kerala and Tamil Nadu have achieved 100 per cent village electrification, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have also electrified more than 50 per cent of their villages. Bihar has reached a level of 49.60 per cent in village electrification.

(b) The main reasons of uneven development are:

(i) differences in infrastructural development of States;

(ii) inadequate power availability and

(iii) problems of terrain.

(c) The steps being taken to ameliorate the situation include provision of funds for Rural Electrification under the Minimum Needs Programme so as to reduce regional imbalances, closer monitoring of projects under implementation. Augmentation of generation capacity and closer coordination between REC's Regional Offices and the SEBs in project formulation and implementation.

Steps to be taken by the State Governments to reduce power transmission losses

*139. DR. H. P. SHARMA:

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR;

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Governments have been urged to take effective steps to reduce power transmission losses which stood at more than 20 per cent;

(b) if so, what specific measures, if any, were suggested to them; and

(c) what is the response of the various State Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARA-NAND):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Important measures suggested to States include:—

- (i) improvements of sub-transmission and distribution systems;
- (ii) reduction of lengths of Low Tension distribution lines and improvement of power factors; and
- (iii) closer supervision and frequent inspections to reduce and eliminate pilferage of energy, and award deterrent punishment in cases detected.

(c) State Governments realise the importance of these measures and are adopting them.

Second (line between Madras Beach and Villupuram

T40. SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are considering any proposal to lay a second line from Madras Beach Station to Villupuram; and
- (b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) and (b) Construction of a second M.G. line from Tarri-baram to Chengalpattu (30.7 Kms.) has been approved in the Railway Budget 1985-86. There is no proposal at present for doubling of the action from Chengalpattu to Villupuram.

Conviction of and encounters with deserters from Punjab Regiment during the operation Blue Star

809. SHRI S. W. DHABE:
SHRI AMARPROSAD
CHAKRABORTY;

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the number of deserters from Punjab Regiment following the operation

Blue Star who have been convicted and the sentences inflicted on them; and

- (b) the number of deserters killed during encounters with the army and those facing trial?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) Action as per law has not yet been completed.

The matter is currently *subjudice*.

Inquiry into desertion of troops in Bihar

810. SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a Court of Inquiry was ordered into desertion/mutiny of troops from the Sikh Regimental Centre in Bihar in June, 1984; and

- (b) if so, what are the findings of this court of inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It will not be in the public interest to disclose further details.

Poor catering on Northern Railways

811. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been a deterioration both in the quality and quantity of edibles sold at the railway stations of northern railways especially between Delhi and Allahabad Railway stations and that in some cases there has been complaints of poor service at the dining cars and the railway refreshment rooms; and

- (b) what steps are proposed to be taken to improve both the quality and quantity of edibles and also improve the service?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) No, Sir. TV incidence of complaints in this regard has come down during the last one year.

- (b) Constant efforts are being made to improve the quality of catering service by taking various measures such as intensive